

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for supplying and wrapping elongate articles with labels, and capable of handling elongate articles for wrapping a label thereabout, said labels having an adhesively coated side, said elongate articles each having a peripheral surface, said apparatus including:

a label roller assembly for supplying labels to said apparatus;

10 a rotatable puck mechanism, said puck mechanism having an interrupted circumferential surface defining an opening, said opening adapted to receive a predetermined elongate article;

means for rotating said puck mechanism;

15 means for transporting at least one of said labels toward said opening of said puck mechanism; and

means for transporting said peripheral surface of said elongate article toward said opening of said puck member.

20 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said means for transporting said peripheral surface of said elongate object comprises a gripping mechanism, said gripping mechanism arranged to receive one of said elongate articles and guide said of one said elongate articles toward said opening in said rotatable puck mechanism; and further including means for driving said gripping mechanism.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 further including at least one label sensor device.

30 4. A label applicator apparatus for receiving a label from a roll and applying the label to an elongate article, said label having a first side and a second side, said second side being coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, said apparatus comprising:

35 a label roller assembly for supplying labels

to said apparatus;

at least one gripper element for grasping and moving said elongate article;

means for driving said gripper element;

5 a rotatable puck mechanism, said puck mechanism having an interrupted circumferential surface defining an opening for receiving said elongate object; and

means for rotating said puck mechanism.

10 5. A labeling apparatus in which pressure sensitive adhesively backed labels which are releasably adhered to a backing strip are each respectively attached to an elongate object, the apparatus including:

15 a label roller assembly for supplying said labels and adhered backing strip to said apparatus;

label guide means for moving said labels through said apparatus;

a label stripping assembly for removing said labels from said backing strip;

20 a puck assembly, said puck assembly including a puck member having an interrupted circumferential surface defining an opening;

a gripper assembly for grasping and moving an elongate object relative to said opening; and

25 a take-up roll for receiving said backing strip.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said opening of said puck member further includes a spring loaded entrance door.

30 7. A method of attaching a label to an elongate object including:

providing at least one label having an adhesive backing and liner;

35 partially removing the liner from the label so as to expose a predetermined portion of the label

adhesive backing;

providing an elongate article to be labeled;
moving the elongate article toward the exposed

portion of the label adhesive backing;

5 engaging a surface of the elongate article
with the exposed portion of the label adhesive backing;

providing a puck assembly having a cavity,
said cavity including a pair of wing members, said wing
members being normally biased towards one another;

10 moving the engaged surface of the elongate
article and attached label into the puck cavity and
between the normally biased wing members;

rotating the puck assembly and wing members
around the elongate article and attached label, thereby
15 securing the label entirely around the diameter of the
elongate article; and

removing the elongate article and secured
label from the puck cavity.

8. A puck assembly for use in a label
20 applicator apparatus, said assembly including:

a puck element having an interrupted
circumferential surface and an outer edge;

a puck plate, said puck plate being mounted to
said puck element on said outer edge;

25 a puck mount plate, said puck mount plate
defining a relatively flat planar surface having a first
side and a second side and oppositely disposed arm
portions; and

means for rotating said puck assembly.

30 9. The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said
puck mount plate includes a plurality of
circumferentially spaced bearing members.

10. The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said
circumferential surface includes a toothed marginal edge
35 portion, and wherein said means for rotating includes a

belt having a notched surface, said notched surface being adapted to engage said toothed marginal edge portion.

11. The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said oppositely disposed arm portions define a generally c-shaped central aperture.

12. The puck assembly of claim 8 wherein said interrupted circumferential surface defines an opening to provide entrance into a cavity, said cavity being provided with a pair of complementary wing members, each of said wing members defining two oppositely disposed arm members and defining an obtuse angle between said arm members.

13. The puck assembly of claim 12 wherein each of said arm members includes a respective first end, each of said respective first ends being pivotally mounted to said puck member.

14. The puck assembly of claim 12 wherein said wing members are normally biased toward one another.

15. A combination puck and gripper assembly for use in a label applicator apparatus, said assembly including:

a puck subassembly including a rotatable puck element having an interrupted circumferential surface and an outer edge; a puck plate, said puck plate being mounted to said puck element on said outer edge; a puck mount plate, said puck mount plate defining a relatively flat planar surface having a first side and a second side and oppositely disposed arm portions; means for rotating said puck assembly;

a gripper subassembly including at least one gripper element, said at least one gripper element being movable from a first position to a second position relative to said puck subassembly; at least one pair of supporting jaw members, said at least one pair of jaw members supported by said at least one gripper element;

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means for moving said at least one gripper element from
said first position to said second position.